

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image information processing apparatus, comprising:

a communication unit that receives image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information; and

a controller, when header information included in the image information indicates that a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information, decompresses the image data included in the image information on acquiring the attribute information ~~that decompresses the image data included in the image information when the attribute information is acquired, when identifying information is included in header information pertaining to the image information, the identifying information indicates that the attribute information and the image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An image information processing apparatus, comprising:

a controller that generates image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information; and

an output unit that outputs the generated information, wherein a plurality of ~~[[the]]~~ attribute information and ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence, and the image information includes header information identifying ~~information indicating~~ that the plurality of attribute information and the plurality of image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in ~~header information of the~~ a whole image information.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The image information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said output unit exchanges negotiation information in connection with a layout sequence of attribute information and image data with a receiver device which receives the image information, and

said controller generates the image information on the basis of a result of the exchanged negotiation information.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An image information processing apparatus, comprising:

a communication unit that receives image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information and that exchanges, with a sender device externally connected via a network, negotiation information in connection with a layout sequence of the image data and the attribute information; and

a controller that decompresses the image data included in the image information on acquiring the attribute information, ~~when the attribute information is acquired~~, when the received negotiation information indicates that ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of attribute information and ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An image information processing apparatus, comprising:

a controller that generates image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining the image information; and

a communication unit that exchanges, with a receiver device externally connected via a network and is to send the image information, negotiation information in connection with a layout sequence of image data and attribute information and that outputs the generated image information, wherein

a plurality of ~~[[the]]~~ attribute information and ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information based on a result of exchange of the negotiation information.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform processes for entering and decompressing image information, the processes comprising:

~~a communication step~~ of receiving the image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information;

~~a determination step of identifying information included in header information pertaining to the entered image information whether or not the attribute information and the image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per page basis; and~~

if header information of the image information indicates that a plurality of image data and a plurality of attribute information are arranged in the predetermined sequence in a whole image information, a decompression step of decompressing the image data included in the image information on acquiring the attribute information when the attribute information and the image data are determined to be arranged in the predetermined sequence on the per page basis.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform processes for producing image information, the processes comprising:

~~a controller that generates~~ generating image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information;

~~a sequential information storage step of~~ storing identifying information into header information of the image information, wherein the identifying information indicates that ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of attribute information and ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of image data are stored in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information;

~~an image information generation step of~~ producing the image information by means of storing the attribute information and the image data in the predetermined sequence; and

~~an output processing step of~~ outputting the produced ~~generated~~ image information.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform processes for entering and decompressing image information, the processes comprising:

~~a communication step~~ of receiving the image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information;

~~a negotiation processing step~~ of conducting negotiations with a sender device externally connected via network in connection with a layout sequence of the image data and the attribute information;

~~a decompression step~~ of decompressing the image data included in the received image information on acquiring the attribute information, when it is identified that ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of attribute information and ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information through the negotiation ~~processing~~ step.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium that stores a program for causing a computer to perform processes for producing image information, the processes comprising:

~~a controller that generates image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information;~~

~~a negotiation processing step of conducting negotiations with a receiver device externally connected via network in connection with a layout sequence of [[the]] image data and [[the]] attribute information pertaining to the image information to be output;~~

~~an image information generation step of producing the image information by means of arranging [[the]] a plurality of attribute information and [[the]] a plurality of image data in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis in a whole image information based on a result of negotiations performed in the negotiation processing step; and~~

~~an output processing step of outputting the produced image information.~~